



DEC Current

Beat the Peak



When we consider the items in our home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before in the past. While the demand for electricity at your home has increased, so has the demand from our system as a whole. Otsego Electric Cooperative must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply, regardless of market costs, conditions or other circumstances.

OEC's electric system usage fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. We must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all of our members during times of highest use, or what we call "peak" hours. Typically, those hours are in the morning as people get ready for their day and in the evening as people return from work and school and go about their evening routines. Peaks usually run from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Many members are not aware that electric utilities like your Cooperative typically pay more for electricity during those peak times. In addition, the demand for electricity is higher when it is cold out, when heating systems run longer to keep your home warm. During those peak times, the cost to produce and purchase power is higher so we encourage our members to take simple steps to save energy. These efforts will save all members some money. You can save energy by unplugging electronics that you are not using such as: chargers, computers, printers, televisions, and phones. If you utilize a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the settings to minimize or eliminate usage during peak times. You can run your large appliances, such as a dishwasher, washer, or dryer during non-peak times by utilizing the delayed start feature on many new appliances. When we all work together to reduce energy use during the peak times of demand, we can save money along the way. When the Co-op pays less for electricity, our members pay less for peak power.

Taking simple steps to save energy throughout your days and shifting your larger usage away from peak times is a smart and efficient choice for you and our electric community as a whole.

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Why does my power blink?

Why does the power blink? No one likes blinking lights, resetting the microwave, or momentary outages but those minor annoyances are a good thing. Blinking lights or momentary outages are the result of a disturbance that has been detected on the electric system. The cause can range from an automobile accident to a tree limb. When lights blink, it is an indication that OEC's protective devices are operating properly. When something contacts an energized line, it creates a fault or short circuit. If the fault or short circuit is temporary, power is restored in an instant and a lengthy outage has been avoided. In some cases, the protective device will operate more than once to clear the line of the disturbance and avoid a prolonged outage. If the line is not cleared, it will be de-energized to protect equipment from damage and to ensure safety.

79th Annual Member Meeting

We want to thank all of our members who attended our 79th Annual Member Meeting! It was a great morning filled with local live music, numerous local organizations, morning refreshments, and a local lunch favorite of Brooks BBQ! It was our pleasure to give out stuffed backpacks to some kids and to watch many of the adults walk away with some excellent raffle prizes! This is a day we look forward to every year so please plan on coming next August!

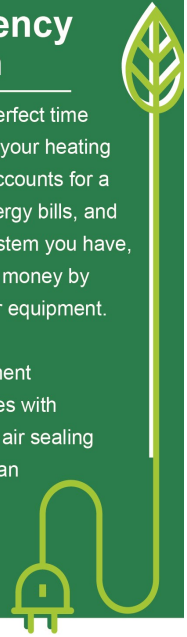


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



CO-OPS GROW



COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month.

As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.